Forest reports

1132. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Forest Report have been published by Government;

(b) if so, whether copies will be made available to Members of Parliament;

(c) if not published, by when those will be published; and

(d) what steps are being taken for their early publication?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) State of Forest Report, 1995 has been published in 1996.

(b) Copies of State of Forest Report, 1995 arc being made available in the Library *of* Parliament.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Diversion of forest land in Melghat area

1133. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much forest land in the Melghat Area of Amravati District of Maharashtra has been diverted for non-forest purposes during the last ten years with the permission of Government;

(b) what were the reasons for such diversion;

(c) how much land has been illegally diverted;

(d) what action is contemplated for this illegal diversion; and

(c) what steps will be taken to protect the forest efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS (PROF. " SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems faced by adivasis of Melghat forest reserves

1134. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the local adivasis living in the reserved forests of Melghat in Amravati District of Maharashtra have made several complaints over the last few years about the highhandedness of the forest officials;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to redress these complaints; and

(c) what steps will be taken to see that the local population in the reserve forests is protected?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Growth/Decline of Melghat Region Forest Cover

1135. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth or decline of the forest cover of the Melghat region in Amravati District of Maharashtra;

(b) what steps are being taken to protect the forest in Melghat;